

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY Annapolis, Maryland 21401 WESTERN MARYLAND DELEGATION

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September 28, 2021

Chair Shanaysha Sauls PUP Building, 4th Floor 1000 Hilltop Circle Baltimore, MD 21250

Vice-Chair Paul Pinsky Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Dr. Sauls and Senator Pinsky,

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) is tasked with overseeing the implementation of billions in education spending and granted enormous authority to hold school systems accountable for student outcomes and changes in achievement gaps. In order to succeed and in the interests of equity, it's imperative that the AIB host an assorted membership that is representative of the massive diversity that Maryland comprises.

It has come to our attention that the entirety of Western Maryland has been neglected based on the announced nominees. This is not to undermine those selected as they are unquestionably qualified, however the nine nominees only account for four jurisdictions out of the twenty-four throughout the state of Maryland. This is an issue raising extreme bipartisan concern as several groups are tremendously underrepresented by the current candidates, which aforementioned hold tremendous responsibility effecting the entirety of Maryland's student population. It is inexcusable that none of the five jurisdictions that make up Western Maryland have a representative nominated for the board. This current slate of nominees will undoubtedly hinder the efforts of Western Maryland's education systems.

Therefore, we would like to immediately request that nomination committee reopen the application process and allow there to be a presentation of nominees that more equitably embodies all of Maryland's students, including Western Maryland. We look forward to your coming action to remedy this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Delegate Wendell Beitzel

cc: Governor Lawrence J Hogan

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